

## Second Judicial District Court welcomes seven new judges

**Albuquerque, New Mexico, January, 22, 2021** — Seven new judges will be presiding over cases in the Second Judicial District Court this year. This includes two judges appointed to newly created positions. The Court now has a total of 29 judges.

One of the new judges was elected to the District Court bench in November 2020. Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham appointed the remaining six to the District Court bench on January 14, 2021. Two of the new judges will serve in the Second Judicial District Children's Court Division. The others will serve in the Criminal Division.

The new Children's Court judges are:

- **Catherine Begaye**, who comes to her judicial position having been a hearing officer for the same Children's Court, will be one of four judges hearing cases for families and children in Bernalillo County. Judge Begaye, who was sworn in on Friday, November 22, 2021, is a member of the Navajo Nation and is currently New Mexico's only Native American District Court Judge.
- **Alma Roberson**, who joined the New Mexico Law Office of the Public Defender in 2012, and subsequently joined the LOPD's Juvenile Division in 2015, representing children in every stage of their delinquency proceedings.

Judges assigned to the Criminal Division are:

- **Courtney Weaks**, who was elected to the District Court bench in November 2020. She had been a judge in Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court since 2014, where she served as the Presiding Judge of Metropolitan Court's Specialty Court Programs as well as the Presiding Judge of the Court's Behavioral Health Court Program and the Early Intervention Program.
- **Bruce Fox**, who spent his entire career working in state and tribal courts across New Mexico. He was most recently Chief Judge for the Pueblo of Laguna.
- **Britt Baca-Miller**, who has worked as a public defender in Albuquerque since 2013, representing indigent individuals in cases ranging from DWI to first-degree murder. She also has served on the board of directors of the New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association, and is a member of the Hispanic National Bar Association and the New Mexico Women's Bar Association.
- **Joseph Montano**, a 10-year prosecutor with the Second Judicial District, most recently as the Deputy District Attorney managing the General Crimes Felony Trial Division.

- **Jennifer J. Wernersbach**, who has practiced as a trial lawyer for sixteen years, primarily in the areas of criminal defense and civil rights in both state and federal court.

“We are pleased to have such an accomplished group of individuals join our Court,” said Second Judicial District Chief Judge Stan Whitaker. “We have great confidence that each of them will be instrumental in helping the court continue to fulfill its mission of providing the citizens of Bernalillo County efficient and fair access to justice.”